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Broadcast Pioneers Cite 'Fireside Chats'

BY LARRY WOLTERS

THE BROADCAST PIONEERS, composed of veterans of 20 or more years in radio or 10 in TV, presented special awards and citations to distinguished veterans of the radio era at a dinner in the Grand ballroom of the Hilton hotel last night. Ward L. Quaal, Pioneers' president and vice president and general manager of W-G-N, Inc., presided. Paul W. Morentcy, president of WTIC in Hartford, Conn., and chairman of the Hall of Fame awards, bestowed the citations.

The Hall of Fame award was presented posthumously to former President Franklin D. Roosevelt on the 30th anniversary of his introduction of the radio "fireside chat." The citation was made in recognition of him as "the first of the world's great leaders to recognize and to use to its fullest potential the power of radio as the then young and new medium."

Rep. James D. Roosevelt [D., Cal.], his eldest son, accepted the citation.

H. V. Kaltenborn, founder of the Broadcast Pioneers in 1924, was given the distinguished service award because his 40 years in broadcasting are an enduring monument to independence of thought and speech and unquestioned integrity in the reporting and interpretation of the news."



Ed Wynn

ED WYNN, COMEDIAN, actor, author, and producer, received a citation as "The Perfect Fool," who, "as a star for many years on the stage and screen, brought to so many people his great talent, and in the early days of radio, gave literally millions uncouneted great hours of wholesome fun and laughter." Wynn played radio's "Fire Chief" for years.

The award was accepted for him by Francis J. Murphy, chief, fire prevention bureau, Chicago fire department. Wynn, who is performing on the west coast, could not come for the award.

A special citation went to Sol Taishoff, editor and publisher of Broadcasting magazine, for his leadership in "free enterprise."

Norman S. Paul, assistant secretary of defense, won a special citation on the 20th anniversary of the Armed Forces Radio network "established in the European theater of operations July 1, 1943, and later extended globally to bring enlightenment, entertainment, and word from home to the millions of men and women fighting for freedom."

LEROY COLLINS, president of the National Association of Broadcasters, Newton N. Minow, chairman of the Federal Communications commission, and other commissioners and broadcast leaders were guests of the Pioneers.

Minow is to be interviewed on Your Right to Say It on WGN-TV at 8:30 p. m. next Sunday. He will answer questions put to him by Terry Turner and Stanley H. Cohen, reporters.